(c) An area of 4,010 ha of coffee plantations have been raised in the project upto 1984. Since the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has come into effect, no fresh plantations have been raised in the notified forest area by APFDC as raising of new commercial crops like tea, coffee, spices, rubber etc., is a non forest activity and prohibited under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Dumping of e-waste

3418. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the country is turning into a dumping ground for e-waste of developed nations;

(b) if, so the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Import of wastes is not allowed for dumping/disposal purposes in India as per the provisions of the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Trans-boundary Movements) Rules, 2008. However, import of recyclable wastes like plastics, paper wastes and metal scrap conforming to the specifications mentioned in the Rules is allowed for recycling subject to necessary approvals from the concerned authorities.

The Rules require all consignments to be accompanied by a pre shipment inspection certificate/test report from an accredited laboratory and a movement document. The Customs authorities are required to take random samples from the consignments to prevent misdeclaration. Further, the ministry has constituted a co-ordination committee including representatives from the Department of Revenue, DGFT, Central Pollution Control Board, State Pollution Control Boards and experts to oversee the implementation of the provisions laid down in the Rules, specially related to import and export of hazardous wastes.

Moratorium on open and field trials of GM crops

3419. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had made any study as to the impact of introduction of GM research and commercial release of GM foods in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is planning to enforce a moratorium on all open and field trials of GM crops until an independent analysis proving safety to human life and environment is conducted; and

(c) whether Government would put pressure on States which had banned its introduction especially Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Government of India is following a policy of case by case assessment of